

War Minister ARAKI's Speech

Delivered at the Reception of the Inquiry Committee
of the League of Nations. (8th March 1932)

Excerpts from SHANGHAI JIKEN GAIKOSHII
(The Diplomatic History of The SHANGHAI Incident) p.509

It is a great honor for us to welcome here today the members of the China Inquiry Committee of the League of Nations, who have come to the Far East in order to contribute to the peace of the world as well as to the welfare of mankind. We feel the more grateful for your presence today, as we know well that you have been very busily engaged in all kind of activities since your arrival in Tokyo. As has been re-ferred to before, the Japanese army makes humanity and justice her basic principles, and she has also the sincerity to realize, in deed if not always in word, these two principles, which have been cultivated by the Japanese people for more than two millenia as a part of their national character. This Japanese army, as you know, for half a century since the Meiji Restoration, and especially in these last thirty years, has given her utmost efforts, and that at a great sacrifice, to contribute to the peace in the Far East.

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And we would especially like to have you remember that our Japanese Imperial army makes it her duty to restore peace effectively, with humanity and justice as her supreme ideals. We assert that our army has no other aim than to realize faithfully the moral tenets of the Emperor, that is to say of the State unlike those armies whose sole aim is fighting for its own sake, which to our regret was generally the case everywhere in the past. Unfortunately the perpetual disturbances in our neighboring country have prevented her from becoming a unified nation, so that her armies are still little more than bands of armed brigands. It can not be too much regretted that; although as one of her kindred races using Common letters we have always desired her wholesome development the fact is we are now confronted with a deplorable state of things contrary to our expectations.

It is indeed a matter of sincere regret that our patience for twenty years was at last exhausted, as the anti-Japanese actions and violations of treaties on the part of our neighboring country reached its height. But fortunately now that peace in Manchuria has been restored and the unhappy incident in Shanghai has also been settled, our desire today is to settle the remaining disputes as speedily as possible with the sincere cooperation of China. We further hope that in Manchuria, whose historical and geographical relation to Japan makes her indispensable to the

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latter from the viewpoint of both economy and national defence. a durable peace will be established firmly for ever with the settlement of this incident. For without peace in Manchuria, there can be no peace in the Far East, and no friendly relation between Japan and China. Indeed, as mentioned above, the importance of Manchuria as a life-line of our national defence has been so deeply impressed upon the mind of the Japanese people that they cannot by any means part with her. We the Japanese people, who make the maintenance of peace in the Far East our Chief mission, have firmly sworn by God with the unified will of the whole nation to realize this mission. Therefore, we wish you to understand fully that we can never brook any event which threatens peace in Manchuria, which has such a vital bearing on our fate, and that we are firmly determined to maintain that peace. We hope that you missionaries of peace will investigate the actual conditions in the Far East, the position of Japan and above all the real state of things in China, and thus contribute to the peace of the whole world as well as of the Far East. In conclusion, may I propose a toast to your health and success!

聯盟調査員歡迎會に於ける荒木陸相演説（一九三二、三、八）

上海事件外交史 五〇九頁

本日茲に世界の平和人類の福祉に寄與貢獻せんとして遙々極東に御出張になりたる國際聯盟支那調査委員御一行を歡迎することを得るは誠に光榮とする所であります。著京以來寸閑なき御活動にて御疲勞と御繁多なる要務あるに拘らず御揃ひ御出でを得て其壯容に接することは誠に欣幸とする所であります。過般一寸申上げました如く、仁愛と公明と而して無言の内に誠實に之を實行すべき強き意志を有する我日本國民性が數千年來發達し來れる此精神を以て、明治維新以來半世紀特に最近三十年極東の地に於いて其和平のために多大の犠牲を拂つて貢獻し來りたることは最早御承知の事と存じます。

而して我陛下の軍は實に此精神の仁愛と公明との大理想の下に平和を克復するの實行力を發揮するを以て責任と爲しあることは特に御記憶を願ひたい。過去世界の到る處に見る戦はんがための軍にあらずして、實に陛下即國の道德を實施するに忠實なる軍隊なることを茲に言明するものであります。不幸隣邦多年の紛亂は國家としての機構を爲さず、其の軍

隊は武装せる匪賊に外ならぬ爲め多年の友邦とし又同種同文の民族として其健全なる發達を願つて居るのでありますが、事實は終に之を裏切られて常に悲しむべき忍耐に堪へねばならぬ事は誠に遺憾至極であります。而して最早二十年の苦痛と忍苦は極度に達したる友邦の暴戾なる侮日と條約の蹂躪によりて、茲に爆發するに至つたのは残念であります。今や滿洲も平安に歸し上海の兇事も靜になりし事は御同慶の至りでありますが、此上は支那の誠意の喚起によりて一日も早く紛争の解決せんことを祈つて止まぬものであります。而して歴史的に地理的に國防上にも亦經濟上にも日本のためには忘るべたらざる滿洲、又日支間密接なる平和の鍵たるべき滿洲が今回の變を最終として永遠に平和ならんことを祈る次第であります。滿洲の平和なくしては東洋の平和なくしては日支の親善はないのみならず現に申述べた如く我國防線生命線としても國民は過去の深き印象より、最早滿洲と離るゝ事は出来ないであります。東洋の平和を使命とし責任とする日本は國民の總意を以て國家の總意力を擧げて神に祈りて鞏く其平和の實現を覺悟して居る次第であります。若し夫れ最も日本に近き關係を有する滿洲にして再び平和擾亂せられんか、到底

國民の堪へ得ざる所でありまして、其平和存続のためには國民の決意極めて盡きものありますので此邊亦十分に御諒承あらんことを希ふのであります。今回平和の使者として御來朝になりました各位に於いては何卒之等の極東の情勢、日本の立場特に支那の實情を十分に御觀察調査ありて、東洋將來の平和は固より以て世界平和のために御貢獻あらんことを祈る次第であります。終りに杯を舉げて御一行の御健康を祝し御成功を祈ります